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28 March 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment
FROM: Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT: Unexplained Events - Enigmas

1. I have been concerned by events that we observe but cannot rationally explain either in terms of their nature or in terms of their intent. Examples of these events are [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and the now resolved outbreak of anthrax, to cite but a few.

2. Is there anybody or any group in NFAC assigned to look at the totality of these events which routinely receives reports of new observations of the same kind, which is tasked with trying to discern a pattern? (This is complementary to looking at the individual events as is currently done under the STIC charter.) The possible advantage of an integrated look such as the one I describe would be to alert us quite early to Soviet developments of interest to us and to unify our intelligence picture; it implies that events to be scrutinized should not be technical ones only but should cut across the board of our collection activities.

3. If there is such a focal point for the handling of these events, how is it operating? If not, should we try to set one up on a trial basis, consisting maybe of two or three analysts fully dedicated to the task for a couple of years? Where should such a little group, reporting informally and on an ad hoc basis, be placed?

4. Please let me know.


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